Mount Carmel College of Nursing Magazine

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WINTER 2018

Mount Carmel College of Nursing

When Life Is Your Life’s Calling.

Mount Carmel Students Living The Mission

Destination: The World
Experience is one of the most important teaching tools when it comes to preparing young persons to answer their life’s calling to become proficient and knowledgeable professional nurses.

At Mount Carmel College of Nursing, we also want our nurses to be compassionate and have understanding for the wide variety of people they will encounter in practice. Experience is the best way to nurture these qualities, too, so that’s why we offer students a variety of opportunities to interact with people from all walks of life - including walks that may be very different from their own lives thus far - by organizing mission trips at home and abroad.
MCCN Mission Statement
In the spirit of the Catholic tradition, we welcome a diverse population of students from all faiths, to prepare them academically and professionally as competent and compassionate nurse leaders, who are lifelong learners, and who possess the moral courage to continuously promote the health of individuals and communities.

Pictured Left: MCCN “Nightingales” on the Costa Rica medical mission trip are (left to right front row): Meredith Douds, BSN, RN, instructor, with MCCN students Katy Karper, sophomore; Abbey Santa-Emma, junior; Brittany Stevens, junior; Megan Cleveland, sophomore; Kelly Swendeman, senior; (back row) Morgan Willard, senior; Emily Coonfare, junior; Jennifer Dully, junior; and Laura Lawrence, BSN, RN, student health nurse.

Mount Carmel Students: at Home and Abroad

Costa Rica

In October, Laura Lawrence, BSN, RN, student health nurse, and Meredith Douds (’14), BSN, RN, instructor, accompanied eight MCCN students to San Jose, Costa Rica. Through the travel organization, International Volunteer HQ (IVHQ), the students and faculty members performed health assessments and screenings – with the supervision of a Costa Rican physician – on adults and children at Maximo Nivel, a local mission. The group also visited a local hospital where they heard...
This experience changed me by showing me a different world and reinforcing for me why I want to become a nurse – to care for people no matter what their economic situation, they should all be treated the same," recalls sophomore Megan Cleveland.

"Everything I’ve been learning in my classes really came together for me while we were doing the head-to-toe assessments for the children," says sophomore Katy Karper. "When a teenager who was ashamed and embarrassed to admit he was using cocaine expressed gratitude that we didn’t judge him but treated him well by coming back the next day with gifts of fruit, we were so touched that we all cried – that was a real eye-opener."

"It was wonderful to see the pride in community among the people of San Jose," says junior Brittany Stevens. "And, the gratitude they expressed to us was humbling – they had no sense of entitlement. It was also very rewarding as future nurses to see some people who had never seen a medical professional before. Also, it was fun to see how the children were excited and enthusiastic about the stuffed animals and coloring books we brought."

Students say:

MCCN student Abbey Santa-Emma fascinates the children by enabling them to listen to her heartbeat. MCCN student Emily Coonfare shares a light moment with one of the children.

Before the U.S. Department of State issued safety warnings in 2011, assistant professor Hannah O’Handley, RN, MSN, CPNP, along with her husband Jack O’Handley, MD, led MCCN students on 10 annual medical mission trips to Nuevo Progresso, Mexico, where students obtained vitals on children and adults. Subsequent destinations include a medical mission to Pikesville, Ky., with Remote Area Mission, an organization that targets areas where the majority of the population does not have access to insurance; an educational trip to Dublin University College of Nursing in Ireland; a medical mission to Nicaragua with Amigos for Christ Mission.

MCCN student Morgan Willard checks a Costa Rican girl’s blood pressure.

a physician discuss Costa Rican healthcare and medical education. Relaxation and recreation included touring a coffee plantation, hiking to view magnificent waterfalls, and visiting with locals while taking Salsa dance lessons.

"As we embarked on the mission, I asked students to think about what kind of nurse they wanted to be so they could absorb the culture and adapt to the needs of patients in Costa Rica, to help them become that," says Laura. "The students really dove into the experience, seeing more than 300 people over four days – I’m very proud of our Mount Carmel presence," she adds.

By staying with a local family, the group was able to eat meals typical for the native people and experienced a comfortable environment, even without the unlimited hot water to which they are accustomed at home. Future plans include fundraising to purchase vitamins and food items to send at the holidays.

Pictured above: MCCN students Abbey Santa-Emma, Katy Karper and Morgan Willard enjoy teaching the children, who are grateful to receive toothbrushes donated by faculty and staff members, about good oral hygiene and dental care.
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Interfaith Prayer

An annual Interfaith Prayer Service is held in November with leaders and students from Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths coming together to pray, show thanks and collect donations such as warm blankets and tents for the homeless; toiletries and other items for hurricane and flood victims; and toys and clothing for children abroad.

Those participating are (left to right): MCCN student Rebecca Bujnoch; alumna Yuliya Fonin ('16); Fr. Vinny McKiernan, priest from the St. Thomas More Newman Center at OSU; Rev. Eric Brown, pastor, Woodland Christian Church; Nicol Ghazi, outreach, Noor Islamic Cultural Center; and MCCN students Fadumo Jama-Aden; Logan Jackson and Aisha Ahmed. Not in photo: Dr. Ellen O’Shaughnessy, director, Campus Ministry.

“When the waters rise, so do our better angels.”
– Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S. President

Mount Carmel students have a long history of living out the mission of the College on a local basis – going all the way back to 1903 when the Sisters of the Holy Cross founded the School of Nursing.

“I often remind myself and our students that Pope Francis’ Encyclical on the Care for the Earth points out that if we don’t care for our common home, the poor will suffer the most,” says Ellen O’Shaughnessy, D.Min., who often leads students on mission trips.

Mount Carmel Students: Mission at Home

Avondale Christmas

Each year, children from Avondale Elementary School in Franklinton are delighted to receive Christmas gifts from MCCN faculty, staff and students. MCCN staff member, Colleen Cipriani, MA, director of Student Life, coordinates Christmas activities at Avondale, as well as Habitat for Humanity and other mission-focused work, while associate professor Peggy Shaw, MSN/ED, BSN, RN, oversees the Avondale Tutoring Program throughout the academic year.

Pictured left: MCCN’s Admissions counselor, Christine McNelly (far left), and MCCN students (left to right) Miranda Whitesed and Sheldy Druhot.
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Thanksgiving Meal

Through a service/learning project of the class, Care of Child and Family, students help prepare and serve a Thanksgiving meal for children at the Boys and Girls Club of Columbus, located in the Franklinton neighborhood. The students have a wonderful time interacting with the children and leave with joy-filled hearts.

Retreat in Chicago

In February, MCCN students participated in the Retreat on Faith and Science at the Museum of Natural History in Chicago, joining students from other universities. Amanda Barrett, an MCCN student of the Jewish faith tradition, says, “I learned a lot about what it means to be catholic... catholic as the way of being together while being able to disagree...” Others from Mount Carmel include students Diamond Akobuaku; Becca Bijnoch; Cameron Duke; Breana Francis; Kendal Hohl; Katherine Kovalchin; Sarah Stegler; and Kearstin Turner; along with MCCN alumna Yuliya Fonin ('16), who is on the Downtowners board; and Dr. Ellen O’Shaughnessy and her husband Robert Padberg, PhD.
“In partnership with Downtowners Campus Ministry, MCCN students and faculty have been involved in outreach together for more than 30 years,” says Ellen O’Shaughnessy, DMin, director of Campus Ministry. “In fact, Sister M. Louisita Welsh, CSC, a Sister of the Holy Cross, served as a board member for Downtowners in the 1980s. (Sister Louisita served at Mount Carmel in various capacities from 1958 to 1984.)

While retreats for renewal include destinations as varied as the Hocking Hills, Pilgrim Hills in "Amish country" and a youth hostel in Chicago, retreats for mission work include serving at the annual "Bethlehem on Broad Street," a multi-church partnership to make Christmas more joyful for those in need; and – since 2012 – helping the homeless in our nation’s capital through the Gales Mission and Our Daily Bread.

Mission Trip to D.C.

As part of the fifth annual mission trip to Washington, D.C., MCCN students (left to right) Cameron Duke, Haley Robison and Caylie Dick, share with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) their concerns about the need for systemic change around issues of social justice and contemporary human conditions. The students also visited with U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH).

LIVING OUR MISSION IN Our Nation’s Capital
Gales Mission

Students who cooked and served a meal for homeless patrons of the Gales Mission are (clockwise from left): Diamond Akabuaku; Angel Akabuaku (University of Cincinnati pre-med student, who is Diamond’s sister); Courtney Duke; Haley Robison; Cameron Duke; and Tina Harkless.

Cameron Duke, MCCN sophomore and leader in Campus Ministry, says that he and other students went into the Gales Mission “Our Daily Bread” with the gospel of Mark in mind. “The individuals we met, suffering from homelessness, sex trafficking and low income, should not suffer because of the cards they were dealt, but should be able to work their way out of these situations with help from people just like us,” he notes.

Sight-Seeing

Time for sight-seeing is included on most mission trips. MCCN students and faculty enjoyed visiting our nation’s monuments as they took a break from serving at the Gales Mission and visiting lawmakers (left to right) Tina Harkless, instructor; Courtney Duke; Canaan Dick; Cameron Duke; Caylie Dick; Diamond Akabuaku; and Dr. Ellen O’Shaughnessy.
A Message from the Mount

Dear Friends,

What a pleasure it is to serve as your interim president, Mount Carmel College of Nursing. Working with the excellent faculty and staff, and getting to know the stellar students, is a privilege and an honor.

You’ll see many faculty, students and staff featured in this issue of the Lamp, including those who are giving of their time and themselves in caring for others through missions at home and abroad. You’ll also read about our generous donors and benefactors, as well as outstanding members of the alumni.

In fact, I so enjoyed meeting alumni at the Mount Carmel Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Homecoming (see photos pages 28 and 29). I’m very impressed with the accomplishments of our alumni, including their attainment of higher education and national recognition, as well as how they have cared for – with many still caring for – patients in all settings.

Please be assured that the national search for your next president is progressing with the help of a nationally recognized search firm. Whoever steps into this leadership role will not only be well qualified with deep experience, but also will bring the level of passion and caring that the College deserves.

Finally, I’m delighted to acknowledge that the College has been on a trajectory of growth for more than two decades, and now has close to 1,100 students, which maintains MCCN’s No. 1 ranking among private BSN programs in Ohio.

Ann Marie T. Brooks, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, FACHE, FNAP
who asked to be driven around his old neighborhood as he told Mike stories about his life.

"Sharon is the one who often sat vigil with patients, praying through their time of death," Mike notes. "I like to think that when it comes to prayer life, if I have a peashooter, Sharon has a bazooka – she's the person you want at your side when things are really tough," he adds.

In the News

When Mike was named editor of /The Columbus Dispatch in 1995 – where he began his career in 1973 during his senior year at /The Ohio State University – several offers to serve on community boards were extended.

As a graduate of Leadership Columbus, Mike was prepared and served on several boards, but none for as long as the three, three-year terms for Mount Carmel Health System Board of Trustees, from 2000 to 2009.

"Mount Carmel is a great fit for me, not only because of my experience with Hospice, but also because of its Catholic mission – my parents were very devoted to the Catholic faith, and so are Sharon and I," he explains.

Before his tenure on the System board ended, he'd reached the pinnacle of his career at the Dispatch, holding the titles of president, chief operating officer, vice chairman of the company and associate publisher – second to owner John F. Wolfe. Even though Mike was intimately involved with handling the very challenging situation the Dispatch – along with other newspapers across the country – found itself in following the Great Recession, he made time to serve on the Mount Carmel College of Nursing Board of Trustees.
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continued on next page

Retired newspaperman and former Ohio state representative, Michael F. Curtin, has served Mount Carmel – in one capacity or another – for nearly two decades and plans to continue through planned giving.

He and his wife of 41 years, Sharon – who delivered both of the couple’s children at Mount Carmel West in the 1970s – began serving in Hospice in 2008, drawn to the Mount Carmel ministry after Mike’s mother had been in hospice care through another institution prior to her passing in 1990.

“We were both impressed with what happens in Hospice. I learned so much from being with dying patients, mainly to meet people where they are,” Mike says. Most of his volunteer time was spent visiting with patients, providing respite for family members. He recalls one elderly gentleman
Serving the College

"I was recruited to the College's board in 2010 by Dr. Ann Schiele (MCCN President and Dean Emeritus) and everyone knows you can't say 'no' to her," he chuckles. “I was delighted to come because my sister, Kathryn Curtin Grady ('67) – oldest of the Curtin five – graduated from the School of Nursing 50 years ago.”

MCCN had been a college for only 10 years and was beginning its continuing upward trajectory, moving up in national rankings, adapting to new technologies, managing increasing enrollment numbers and adding new programs, including the Online RN-BSN Completion program.

At that time, Mike had been an independent contractor with one client – The Columbus Dispatch – for two years. Because finances at the daily newspaper had become increasingly constricted since 2005, Mike faced the daunting task of choosing who, among the Dispatch’s long-term, devoted staff members would be part of the paper’s first-ever lay off. Because it was obvious to him that the organization was top-heavy, he resigned his position at the end of 2007, closing his 34-year employment with the paper. He began looking for an opportunity to move into public service and was pleased to read in the Dispatch in 2011 that District 17 – a new district for the Ohio House of Representatives – had been drawn in Marble Cliff, where he and his wife live.

“Sharon and I talked about my running for the office, and it made sense – this was an opportunity to become part of an institution I had studied and written about all my life,” he says. “And, although it was an exciting time to be associated with the College, once I decided to enter public service, I needed to step down to avoid any conflicts of interest,” he explains.

After his election and subsequent re-election, by 2016 Mike finished his second two-year term and was again available to Mount Carmel. He was tapped to sit on a committee of volunteers, tasked with visioning the future of the Mount Carmel West campus.

“Spending time with Sister Barbara (Hahl, CSC, Senior Vice President, Mission Services, Mount Carmel Health System) and others talking about the importance of Mount Carmel’s mission in the Franklinton community – home of the College and where the original hospital, in 1886, was administered by the Sisters of the Holy Cross – was a very rewarding experience. I considered it my responsibility to point out the high moral obligation the System has to reimagine this campus in a way that’s compatible with financial practicalities, but also honors the spirit of its mission,” he says.

Next Steps

When Mike was approached by the Mount Carmel Foundation to join its Board of Trustees in 2017, he was quick to step up. “Mount Carmel is the right place for me to stay involved. Sharon and I both believe strongly in the Catholic mission, and we believe Mount Carmel lives its mission,” he notes.

That’s why Mike and Sharon decided to go beyond the generous contribution they made toward The Ann E. Schiele Presidential Endowment; they have also arranged a Planned Gift of at least six figures that is set forth in their respective wills, to be left to the Mount Carmel Foundation.
> The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program, which will graduate its first cohort in May 2018, and is accredited by CCNE, now features a part-time option (one class per semester in 10 semesters). The current full-time option (two classes per semester for 7 semesters) continues. Classes begin with spring semester in January 2018. Contact Jill Kilanowski, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP, FAAN, associate dean, MCCN Graduate Program for more information.

> Cora Arledge (‘12 and ’17), MS, RN, was featured in an article in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette about her journey from being a member of the inaugural class at MCCN’s satellite campus at Fairfield Medical Center and earning her BSN in 2012, to going on to not only earn her master’s degree from MCCN, but also being named program coordinator last year. To read the article, “FMC’s new nursing school director comes full circle,” on our website, click on “MCCN in the News.” MCCN-Lancaster celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2018.

> A new video, available on the MCCN website, tells the story of 1952 alumna, Regina Sallee Williams, PhD, RN, FAAN, who was one of the first African American students to graduate from Mount Carmel. In 1949, Mount Carmel School of Nursing was the first nursing program in Columbus to admit black students. View the video on our website by clicking on “MCCN Videos.”
EDUCATION
is Primary Focus
for Three-Time Alumna

When Pat Steele Skunda and her husband, Mike, shared with one another about their philosophy of giving back, they agreed that Mount Carmel had made a major impact on their lives. The couple met at “The Mount,” in 1973, shortly after she graduated from Mount Carmel School of Nursing in 1972, when Pat had just started at Mount Carmel West as a staff nurse and he was a respiratory therapist.

“We have been blessed over the years individually and as a couple,” recalls Pat. “I was given scholarships way back when, and so it was important to me to provide opportunities for others to receive their education, too,” she adds. That is why the couple decided to create a Planned Gift scholarship, which will be established at the College upon their passing.
“My life has been positively impacted by Mount Carmel in so many ways – particularly the College,” Pat says.

After working 36 years at Mount Carmel West, she decided it was time for her to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and enrolled in the College’s then new RN-BSN Completion program.

“At that time, I had already been working as the night shift Nursing supervisor for more than 16 years, and many of the new hires already held a bachelor’s degree. Although it was wonderful being back in class, it wasn’t easy, because the program was not yet online. And, not only was I the oldest in most classrooms, but I also had to take many prerequisite college-level classes at Columbus State Community College first,” she recalls.

Upon earning her BSN in 2010, Pat immediately enrolled in Mount Carmel’s Master of Science program in the Nursing Administration track.

Since then, she has encouraged higher education for others and has been a proponent of continuing education. A year and a half before her retirement, Pat established the first Night Shift Council in the Mount Carmel Health System. It still meets at 2:30 in the morning, providing in-services, with speakers and presentations for all staff on the night shift. Pat retired from Mount Carmel West in November 2016 after nearly 46 years of service.

“I treasure the life-long friendships I made in nursing school. There were 38 students in my 1972 graduating class and at Homecoming this year, nearly half were in attendance – that says a lot,” she asserts.

Today, Pat serves as secretary on the Mount Carmel Alumni Association board of directors, of which she has been a member since 2011. She is also a member of the Mount Carmel Foundation’s Legacy Society.

“To me, nursing was never a job, it’s a profession and therefore is dependent upon education. It’s satisfying and fulfilling to make a difference in people’s lives, and because education is one of the best ways to do that, establishing a scholarship just makes sense,” Pat notes.
Thank you to our generous sponsors and donors who participated in the August 28, 2017, Mount Carmel Foundation Golf Invitational benefiting Mount Carmel College of Nursing. There were 120 golfers, along with MCCN faculty, staff and students and Foundation colleagues, who enjoyed a beautiful day of golf and delicious dinner at Pinnacle Golf Club in Grove City, Ohio. Over $115,000 was raised from the annual golf outing, benefitting future scholarships and educational tools for MCCN students.

Ann Marie T. Brooks, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, FACHE, FNAP, interim president, MCCN, and Sister Barbara Hahl, CSC, senior vice president, Mission Services, Mount Carmel Health, enjoyed the beautiful weather and festive atmosphere.

Top Photo: Diamond Hill Capital Management, one of the Presenting Sponsors, fielded a foursome. Members are (left to right): John Kroeger, director, Information Technology; Teds Peterson, junior equity trader; Trevor Dean, CIPM, director, Investment Performance & GIPS®; and Colin Prescott, associate, Intermediary Sales.

Bottom Photo: Dave Bianconi, founder and retired chairman, Progressive Medical, Inc., and Alyssa Fry, MCCN senior development officer, enjoy the Invitational. Dave and his wife, Michele, were among Title Sponsors for the Golf Invitational this year.
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Another Success:
23rd Annual Mount Carmel Foundation Golf Invitational!

Please save the date for the 2018 Golf Invitational: Monday August 27, 2018, at Pinnacle Golf Club. For sponsorship information please contact Alyssa Fry at 614.234.4760 or afry@mchs.com

Craig Anderson, MD, president and CEO, Central Ohio Newborn Medicine, Inc., receives Presenting Sponsor Gift. Deanna Stewart, president, Mount Carmel Foundation, thanks him on behalf of MCCN students.

George Gevas, managing director and senior vice president, Corporate & Institutional Banking, PNC Bank, accepts Presenting Sponsor Gift from Deanna Stewart, president, Mount Carmel Foundation, at the evening dinner program.

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Jill Kilanowski, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP, FAAN, associate dean of the Graduate Program, recently served as a guest editor for the special edition of the Journal of Agromedicine that focused on scholarly works where the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) was a conceptual model or were influence by the perspective of the SEM.

Stevo Roksandic, MBA, MLIS, AHIP, regional director of Library Services, and former colleague, Allison Erlinger, MA, MLIS, presented “Rethink, Redo, Repurpose: Transforming Library Space to Meet Clients’ Needs at the Midwest Chapter/Medical Library Conference on Sunday, October 15, in Ypsilanti, Mich.

Congratulations to the 2017 Mount Carmel Excellence in Nursing honorees from MCCN who were recognized at a special ceremony held September 26, at Villa Milano.

The Excellence in Nursing Awards event, sponsored annually by Mount Carmel College of Nursing and Mount Carmel Patient Care Services, is now in its 13th year. Mount Carmel Health System recognized outstanding nurse educators, nursing education advocates, nurses and nurse leaders who exemplify devotion to patients, dedication to the nursing profession and diligence in providing outstanding, evidence-based care.

More than 300 people attended the annual event.
Kathryn Ross, MSN, RN, instructor, has been selected as a finalist in the Nurse of the Year category of Critical Care Nursing, sponsored by the March of Dimes Organization and sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic.

Jill Kilanowski, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP, FAAN, associate dean of the Graduate Program, recently served as a guest editor for the special edition of the Journal of Agromedicine that focused on scholarly works where the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) was a conceptual model or were influenced by the perspective of the SEM.

Miriam Abbott, MA, assistant professor, recently received the second-place award from the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists for a resource called The Columbus Underground. The award is "Best of Show – Freelance Digital Media" for an article entitled, PARCC Standardized Test Series. PARCC refers to the "Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers."

Heidi Frymier, MSN, RN, CPN; Meghan Hixenbaugh, MS, RN, CPN, CPNP; Erin Wilson, BSN, RN; and Hannah O’Handley, MSN, RN, PNP, presented Orienting and Educating Student Nurses in Clinical Care of the Child and Family at the Ohio Nurses Association Convention, Oct. 6, 2017.

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The annual Mount Carmel College of Nursing Scholarship dinner on September 11 was a wonderful evening of students and donors coming together, celebrating the Gift of Education. This year, more than 170 students completed 2,200 essays; of those, 110 students received a scholarship from more than 42 donors. The 2018 Scholarship Dinner will be held September 10.

New this year, was the Sixtieth Anniversary Scholarship, conceived and started by the Class of 1957, who graduated from Mount Carmel School of Nursing the same year that U.S. Marine Major John Glenn set a transatlantic speed record in a supersonic jet, making the trip from California to New York in just 3 hours and 23 minutes. The Class of 1957 was able to bestow two $1,250 scholarships on two grateful students: Jerica Dunbar and Dessalegn Zeleke. The Class challenges all classes to keep their class memories alive for the generations of professional nurses who will follow in their footsteps at Mount Carmel by also continuing the new tradition upon their 60th anniversaries.

Pictured above: Grateful scholarship recipients enjoyed meeting their generous donors and thanking them in person for giving the Gift of Education.
WELCOME NEW Nightingales!

It's easy to see that the new incoming freshmen – members of the Class of 2021, along with transfer students – are eager and ready to answer their life’s calling to become professional registered nurses. The annual Convocation procession along Broad Street to Holy Family Church was exciting and meaningful, as was New Student Orientation, held the same day. This year marks the 114th year of nursing education excellence at Mount Carmel.
Mount Carmel College of Nursing 1997 alumna Ivy Cook, BSN, RN, SANE, says her call to nursing came later than most—not until she was 24 years old, after she had been working as an office manager for a company that went out of business. “Growing up, I always thought I’d be either a nurse or a teacher, so it was a good time to reconsider. I mentioned to my mother that I was feeling nudges to nursing, and she insisted I visit Mount Carmel,” Ivy recalls.

Her mother, Barbara Chilton, had been a student at the School of Nursing in the 1980s, leaving to study social work when her two children wanted their stay-at-home mother back. “Mom brought me in to meet Dr. Ann Schiele and it was like two old friends or a family reunion. That conversation was one of my biggest draws to Mount Carmel and I went on to fulfill my mother’s dream,” Ivy says.

After graduation 20 years ago, Ivy worked on Mount Carmel West’s cardiac floor four years before moving to the ER where she has been since. “I am a servant to my colleagues,” Ivy says. “I round on peers everyday, asking ‘what can I do to help?’ because when I can make their jobs easier – that’s better for our patients, too. Sometimes I’m asked to start an IV, other times to fetch a pillow – I like being called the ‘pillow fairy’ because helping in little ways, as well as big ways, is where I get my joy,” she says.

The first in her family to earn a bachelor’s degree, Ivy married a year after graduation and is mother to two daughters; her 16-year-old honor student is already talking about earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mount Carmel. “I think that watching my mother study for nursing was inspiring to me on a certain level and I hope that my daughter seeing me study for my master’s degree will also help her see that nursing is the best profession.”

Ivy, who is a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), is enrolled in MCCN’s Master of Science program, studying Nursing Administration with the ultimate goal of becoming a chief nursing officer. Her immediate plan after her 2019 graduation is to apply her new knowledge in Mount Carmel’s freestanding ER on the west campus and continue serving the people of Franklinton. “I’m so excited about being part of an organization that makes a difference in the community it serves – I get chills when I think about the opportunities Mount Carmel has with an urban, freestanding ER. We have a grant for forensic nursing with 24-hour coverage, looking at sexual assault, human trafficking, domestic violence and other challenges faced by this beautiful, diverse community. We can truly make a difference and have a positive impact here,” she adds.

Today Gail is also a collector of another sort: A collector of classmates – and fellow alumni – having taken over get-together planning duties last year from another alumna.

“There is a group of us out here in Arizona who regularly meet for lunches and other activities,” says Gail. “Up until last year Pat Brown Gates, who graduated in 1963 and was an instructor at Mount Carmel, handled contacting alumni and arranging for a place to meet. I’m now in charge of that, which I’m happy to do.” Photos from the most recent gathering can be seen in the Summer 2017 issue, the Lamp.

Over the years, Gail has also collected a wide range of workplaces, having worked in nine different hospitals over her nearly 34-year career. Her first job after graduation was at Children’s Hospital in Columbus, where she met her husband, Bernie, who was a security officer there. Once he took a job with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, they moved around every few years, living everywhere from California to Alabama to West Virginia and places in between.

“Of all the places I’ve worked, the opportunities to provide hands-on patient care were my favorite. Nursing is a great career for someone who moves around a lot,” she says. Gail is a great example of how alumni – even those who live far from Columbus – can keep in touch through the College. This past year, Gail served on the Mount Carmel Alumni Association scholarship committee and encourages others to get involved, too.
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Dessalegn Zeleke, senior, is known to his friends as “Dess Z."

“Earning my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Mount Carmel College of Nursing will allow me to reach my long-term goal to help the people of Ethiopia,” says senior Dessalegn Zeleke, who came to the United States from the Gondor region of Ethiopia in 2011 at age 26 through a Diversity Visa lottery.

Why did you want to become a nurse?

“For as long as I can remember, I have known what I wanted to do with my life. Dedicating myself to help and improve the lives of others is something that satisfies me greatly. I learned this from my father, an Orthodox Christian who loves helping people. In my country, too many people die due to inaccessibility of healthcare, lack of quality care and the inadequate number of healthcare facilities. Nursing is a well-respected and trusted career that will help me reach my goal to help my people through the care sector and make a significant difference.”

Why did you choose Mount Carmel?

“I came to Mount Carmel because it has a great reputation for nursing education. Before I started classes here, I took two years of science at Columbus State Community College, while working as an STNA (state tested nurse aide) at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor nursing home. Before coming to America, I was studying political science and international relationships in Ethiopia at Addis Ababa University, whose philosophy, ‘Seek wisdom, elevate your intellect and serve humanity’ inspired me.”

Are you involved in extracurricular activities?

“I perform community service by helping people who reside at the assisted-living center, Villas at Saint Therese. I volunteer there and help with daily activities, as well as bingo and visiting with residents whose families live far away.”

Are you interested in a particular field of nursing?

“I want to work in an acute-care setting and the financial help I received – from the Mount Carmel School of Nursing’s Class of 1957 60th Anniversary Scholarship and the Chi Eta Phi Sorority – will help me do that. I believe that my personal philosophy, ‘There is nothing I cannot accomplish as long as I am committed,’ will help me succeed. I’m very grateful to the College and to my two favorite instructors, Shirley Cooley, PhD, RN, CNE, C-EFM, and Victoria Warschauer, MS, RN, for helping prepare me for my career in nursing.”
Like pearls on a string, Mount Carmel alumni are connected, each unique, and together creating a continuum of strength and beauty. This is a story of sisters...and of relationships created through marriage, through dorm rooms, and through time...

When Danielle Graham Spradlin, BSN, RN, graduated from Mount Carmel College of Nursing in 2009, her grandmother, Pat Ward Graham, an alumna from 1982, fastened a strand of pearls around her neck, saying, “A woman should have a set of pearls for special occasions and this is among the most special occasions you will ever have.”

Pat Ward Graham and her granddaughter were connected through marriage when Pat’s son adopted then two-year-old Danielle upon marriage to her mother. Danielle’s happy childhood was made happier by the addition of her half-sisters, who followed her to Mount Carmel, with Emily Craig graduating in 2016 and Allison Craig Kellogg in 2017.

But the connections go back much further than that. Just one year after fastening those pearls around her granddaughter’s neck, Pat Ward Graham passed away. That’s when Danielle more deeply connected with her now “surrogate grandma,” Pat Winslow Ruck, a member of the Class of 1963.

The two Pats were classmates who became best friends when they started at Mount Carmel School of Nursing in 1960; one graduated three years later, and the other took a nearly 20-year hiatus to begin married life instead.

“We were like sisters and she was my matron of honor,” recalls Pat Winslow Ruck. With nine girls named “Pat” in the Class of 1963, the two friends called one another “Ward,” and “Wins.” “We were roommates for most of the time, too. Then she fell in love, and in those days you didn’t stay in school once you started married life. However, even though she didn’t get her diploma until 1982, we always considered her part of our class and she always sat with us at Homecoming,” she recalls.

Danielle remembers her grandmother coming in from work – dressed in white with her black stethoscope – as her inspiration for wanting to become a nurse herself. “She nudged me toward Mount Carmel, where she wound up working 35 years in pre-admission testing and same-day surgery, too.” Danielle also recalls her now surrogate grandma living nearby and going to picnics together.

“I always enjoyed spending time with ‘Ward’ and her little Danielle. She loved her a lot, making cookies and homemade jellies and jams with her. After she passed away, Danielle continued to call me and I truly treasure our relationship. It just goes to show you how strong the bonds are that we create at Mount Carmel,” adds Pat Winslow Ruck.

Danielle’s grandmother, Pat Ward Graham (‘82), gifted her with pearls upon her 2009 graduation from MCCN.
GREETINGS FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Vision
The vision of the Mount Carmel Alumni Association is to support Mount Carmel College of Nursing through philanthropic, networking and mentoring initiatives.

Alumni Library Accounts:
Visit www.mccn.edu/library to register for your account providing 24/7 access to news and information.

Follow us on Facebook
by visiting www.facebook.com/mcalumniassoc

Send Us Your Email Address
MCCN and the Mount Carmel Alumni Association are sending more and more information via email. Send your email address to alumnioffice@mccn.edu or visit our website.

Mark Your Calendar:
Homecoming is Oct. 27, 2018!
All alumni are invited to the 2018 Mount Carmel Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Homecoming that will be held October 27. Honor classes are those whose graduation years end in 3 or 8. The Class of 1968 is our 50th anniversary class.

Alumni help is needed to locate missing classmates, serve on the Homecoming committee and volunteer on the day of the event. If you’d like to help in any – or all – of these ways, please contact Debbie Boggs (’75), RN, director, Alumni Relations, at 614.234.5681 or by email at dboggs@mccn.edu.

Alumni Engagement Opportunities

New opportunity!
Assisting with Mock Interviews for Senior Students

In collaboration with Erin Dougherty, MSN, RN, CPNP, associate professor, members of the alumni have the opportunity to assist with mock interviews as part of the course: Nursing 408 Caring Practices in Transition to the Professional Role.

According to Erin, research shows that job seekers are more likely to get the job if they have written and rehearsed answers to common interview questions. As a result, many colleges utilize mock interviews to enhance students’ preparation for real-world job interviewing. The goals of this volunteer opportunity are to help the student:

- Identify frequently asked questions
- Develop appropriate responses to interview questions
- Become aware of the qualifications and information conveyed to prospective employers
- Increase the level of confidence in responding to questions
- Obtain feedback about strengths and weaknesses
- Learn how to provide lasting impressions

Mock interviews will be held on the Mount Carmel West campus and all needed materials, including questions an interviewer might ask, are provided. To learn more, including dates and times alumni volunteers are needed, please contact the Alumni Relations office at alumnioffice@mccn.edu or 614.234.5681.
Alumni Updates

We have several opportunities to become more involved - or get involved - by volunteering through the Alumni Relations office. If you would like to join a committee for any of the activities below - or just come and help - please contact Debbie Boggs ('75), RN, director, Alumni Relations, by calling her at 614.234.5681 or emailing her at alumnioffice@mccn.edu.

Class Representatives

Class Representatives serve as liaisons between the Alumni Relations office and their classmates to help the College keep in touch with alumni. Would you be interested in maintaining your classmates' names, addresses and emails, and encouraging them to send information to Alumni Relations for the Class-notes section of the Lamp? If so, as a Class Representative, you would be the “go-to person” for your class information and be the glue that keeps them together through the years. The Alumni Relations office will provide contact information and suggestions for contacting your classmates. We are currently in need of representatives from all graduation years ending in a 3 or 8 (with the exception of 1963), as we prepare for Homecoming 2018 with our honor classes.

Alumni Write-a-Thon

It’s hard to believe, but after the New Year, it will once again be time to welcome our newly accepted students who will begin in August 2018! Whether you live near or far, you may be part of this team to welcome our future alumni as they begin their journey to becoming Mount Carmel nurses! Alumni are needed to write letters to students who have been accepted to MCCN. Self-scripted, your short, handwritten letter will express your own heartfelt reasons for choosing Mount Carmel, as well as welcome students to the Mount Carmel family. All supplies are mailed to you along with a return envelope to send your letters back to the College for mailing.

Recruitment Team

Alumni are needed to assist the Admissions office with recruiting events across Ohio. Who better than alumni to share information on the excellent foundation and educational growth opportunities that the College offers to those seeking a nursing career or who want to further their career in nursing? Orientation is provided by Admissions staff. Alumni volunteers are needed from the end of summer to early fall each year. We especially need alumni living in the Cleveland and Cincinnati areas! We hope you will join us. For further information phone Debbie Boggs, RN, director, Alumni Relations 614.234.5681 or email at alumnioffice@mccn.edu.

Please stay in touch with the Alumni Relations office and notify Debbie Boggs ('75), RN, of any changes in your contact information as soon as you can so you don’t miss any news! Also, please let her know your career path since graduation so we can include it in an upcoming issue of the Lamp.

The Class of 1957 kicked off their special 60th Anniversary Weekend early at the Alumni Reception on Friday, Oct. 20, 2017.
A NEW event was held during the Mount Carmel Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Homecoming this year! An Alumni Reception on Friday, Oct. 20, 2017, kicked off Homecoming celebration early. Many alumni from 1949 through 2017 attended the event.
Jill Trego Rill ('77), RN, past Mount Carmel Alumni Association (MCAA) president (left), and Stephen C. Pearson ('15), BSN, RN, current MCAA president, shared their Mount Carmel memories with Ann Marie T. Brooks, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, FACHE, FNAP, interim president of the College.
Rowena Rae Nichols ('46) lives in Albuquerque, N.M., in a retirement center. In 2008 she began working there as “resident nurse.” Since 2012 she has been recovering from a serious stroke; she created her own stroke recovery program, is now walking with a walker and taking care of her own personal needs. Her time is spent researching many aspects of the needs and availability of recovery programs, and she wrote and self-published a book on the topic. She is writing a second book, with her most recent research has been in the field of neuroscience and recent stroke recovery. She writes, “I enjoy reading about the people who continue to make Mount Carmel the exceptional school it has always been.” She especially liked the recent article on travel nurses, saying it “brought back memories of when I was a traveling nurse. I was the first RN on the staff of an agency on Pompano Beach, Fla., in 1977, working in 17 hospitals between Pompano Beach and Miami before I joined other agencies and worked in South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, and on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona.”

Norma Zimmerman Laughrey ('55) lives in Danville, Ohio, and has been married for 62 years. She and her husband live within an hour’s drive of their two daughters, six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. One of those great-granddaughters is a senior at Mount Carmel College of Nursing.

Jeanine Warren Wall ('57) lives in Williamson, Ga. She has been married 59 years and she and her husband have three children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She says she “has been blessed to work as an RN for over 56 years.” Her varied roles were in staff nursing, doctors’ offices, home health, public health and mental health counseling services. She currently volunteers with Eternal Hope Hospice and enjoys crocheting plastic mats out of grocery bags for the homeless.

Pat Moskus Witmer ('62) lives in Florence, Ky., is married and has three children. She retired in 1999 from a career that included psychiatric nursing on Mount Carmel West’s brand new units, home care, a pediatric allergy and asthma practice, and prenatal and well-baby care. She writes, “I really enjoyed the various venues where one can be employed in nursing. I think attending Mount Carmel School of Nursing was one of the best decisions an 18 year old ever made!”

Mary Ann Musselman Bigger ('67) lives in Shelburne, N.Y., is married, and has five children and nine grandchildren. She writes, “I applied only to Mount Carmel and it was an exciting day when I was accepted. The three memorable years I spent there were wonderful. It was a struggle but everyone was helpful and the friendships I developed have lasted a lifetime, even though we are seldom together. I look back and see that my education was cemented mostly by Miss (Catherine) Fitzpatrick ('49) as our freshman teacher. She drummed into us the power of observation. We would walk into a patient’s room and afterward she would quiz us on what we observed about the patient and his surroundings. I used that technique throughout my career as a staff nurse, teacher, leader and practitioner. At age 50, I returned to school to become a family nurse practitioner (FNP).” She was a sole practitioner in her rural community for 20 years, retiring in 2011. She adds, “I thank all my teachers from the Mount Carmel days who taught me the most important lessons of observation, using my intuition, listening to my instincts, and always using compassion and faith to guide me. My prayers are with all the students today: That they will treasure their education from Mount Carmel and go into the world to care for God’s people.”

Carole A. Dalpiaz Hanket ('67) lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn., is married, and has three children and seven grandchildren, with another due in March. During the Vietnam War, she was a civilian RN at Ireland Army Hospital in Fort Knox, Ky., where she cared for soldiers who had been medically stabilized in Japan after initial treatment for war injuries and air evacuated to bases near their homes. She has also worked in cardiac care, at a retirement center and earned her BS/Management for Nursing Services at Mount Saint Joseph College in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1990. She
recently retired after 23 years in cardiac step down, ER and ER observation units. She shares, “I have so many fond memories of my years at Mount Carmel School of Nursing and Mount Carmel West. The nursing education I received has served me well over the years.”

Mary Downey Sroga (’67) lives in Beaver-creek, Ohio, and has been married 41 years. She and her husband have two daughters and twin grandchildren. She is semi-retired as a family nurse practitioner, working one evening per week in an after-hours practice. She also teaches at Chamberlain University with the online FNP program. Her recent travels have taken her to New Orleans, Seattle and Minnesota.

Mary Quinn Matto (’67) lives in Galena, Ohio. She is married and has two sons and four grandchildren. She has worked as a staff nurse and in a pediatrician’s office. In retirement, she has enjoyed volunteering at church, babysitting her grandchildren, book club and lots of travel. She and her husband are members of the “Highpointers Club,” an organization that visits the highest areas of all 50 states and holds a convention annually each summer.

Kathy Curtin Grady (’67) lives in Lewis Center, Ohio, is married and has three children and seven grandchildren. Her education beyond Mount Carmel includes a bachelor’s degree in social welfare from Ohio Dominican University, and a BSN and MSN from Kent State University. She became a women’s health nurse practitioner and worked in that field until retiring in 2007. She writes, “After 40 years of active nursing, I look back at an amazing journey and pass the torch to the younger generation of nurses, wishing them the same amazing journey.”

Dottie Blosser Ballard (’72) lives in Westerville, Ohio. She has two children and two grandchildren. She’s worked on a neuro unit at Mount Carmel West and in a physician’s office. At Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, she learned OR nursing. She was a private scrub nurse for an ENT group before she went to Riverside Outpatient Surgery Center. She was the OR manager for 11 of her 31 years there. She recently retired as director of Nursing from The Hand Surgery Center at Polaris. She writes, “I enjoy my retirement time with family, golfing, traveling, reading and volunteering for the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Ohio, First Tee and the Red Cross.”

Saundra Beatty Gentry (’72) lives in Gahanna, Ohio, is married and has two children. She has done staff nursing, office nursing, and school nursing and worked at the American Red Cross Blood Services. Her positions have included staff nurse, head nurse, assistant director of nursing, and “finally” director of nursing. She is retired and is an avid traveler.

Marilyn Furnas Lang (’72) lives in Pickerington, Ohio, has been married for 45 years and has two daughters and three grandchildren. She retired in 2011 from the Stephanie Spielman Breast Cancer Center as a surgical oncology nurse. She enjoys traveling, spending the winter in Florida, gardening, golfing, reading and babysitting her grandchildren.

Donna Holtzapfel Nassar (’72) lives in Johnstown, Ohio. She is married and has two children and two grandchildren. Her degrees and certifications include pediatric nurse practitioner from College of Mount Saint Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio, (1976) and adult nurse practitioner from UCLA, Los Angeles, Calif. (1999). She currently works with OhioHealth Primary Care Physicians in Columbus, Ohio, in Family Practice.

Jill Michener Tusing (’72) lives in Rosemont, Minn. She worked for 25 years in various clinical care settings and, for the past 20 years has been involved in professional development in an acute care environment. She retired in 2016.

We love hearing your news!
Christina "Tina" Perrill Bobeck ('77) lives in Ashville, Ohio. She earned her BSN from Capital University in 1979 and her Master of Arts from The Ohio State University in 1985. She has been a national certified school nurse since 2006. Following two years at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in NICU, she was a school nurse in Teays Valley School District for 35 years. She retired in 2014. She writes, "I am the proud mother of Anna Bobek Powers ('17), Mount Carmel College of Nursing SDAP graduate and 2017 Mount Carmel Excellence in Nursing honoree."

Christy Platkowski Cooper ('77) lives in Hebron, Ohio, is married and has two daughters. She has done hospital nursing for the last 40 years, working on the surgical progressive care unit at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster, Ohio, for the last 14. She writes, "I love all aspects of doing direct patient care for many wonderful patients and families. I cannot imagine anything more rewarding than being a nurse, and I am grateful to Mount Carmel for getting me started on this career path." She and her husband farm 250 acres, and her skills include driving tractors, dump trucks and other heavy machinery. Her Mount Carmel memories include “being told to treat each patient as an individual and with respect, living in the old dorm and sharing the big corner room with my twin sister while the other freshmen all had the smaller rooms with two beds, riding the bus for classes at The Ohio State University, studying a lot, care plans and playing basketball and softball for Mount Carmel.”

Jennifer File Guy ('77) lives in Columbus, Ohio, is married and is the "proud mother of a stepson and grandmother to his two boys." She has had a long and distinguished career in oncology. She writes, "In the 1980s, appointed to the first Test Development Committee for the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation’s initiation of oncology nursing certification in collaboration with the Oncology Nursing Society, I enjoyed one of the most professionally satisfying events of my professional life. (And, I was the only diploma nurse on that committee and subsequent certification committees...me and those MSNs and PhDs. It was an attestation to the quality of the Mount Carmel education!)" She served as president of the Association of Community Cancer Centers and was the first non-physician, first female and first nurse to hold this position. She retired from "outside employment" in 1999, and her most recent published piece was about cancer of the pancreas and nutrition. "Thanks to Pat McKnight for instilling the importance of nutrition in me!" In retirement she likes to travel, collect art, and be involved with the Columbus Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Deena Renee Lewis Perry ('77) lives in Sioux Falls, S.D., is married and has three sons and seven grandchildren. She has held a variety of jobs in three states. She writes, "I have been everywhere from ICU to clinic nursing, triage phone call, PACU and step down ICU. One of the things I love most about nursing is the flexibility to move around the field. One of the things I love least about nursing is the flexibility of schedule. For that reason, five years ago I joined Pampered Chef and I love it and am now an advanced director, manager and trainer with the company. I love to travel, watch my grandkids grow, read, camp and all that goes with the wonderful life I have been privileged to lead. I am grateful." She shares, "Memories from Mount Carmel: Cathy, Cindy and Anna and me sharing nightly meals; scratching my eyes with contacts from being out too late and Cathy Thornton Earlenbaugh ('77) taking me to the ER; a bat in the study room at 3 a.m.; flunking my test on kidneys while Cathy aced it without studying, because she was sick and we read the content to her while she slept; chemistry; trips to Ohio State and sitting on the green grass while watching the boys walk by; walking into a patient’s room and thinking ‘I know everything about you on paper but now you are real and I am petrified.'"
IN MEMORIAM

Mount Carmel College of Nursing and its alumni honor the following graduates who have passed away and extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

Clara Aldergate Hinig — Class of 1944
Nancy Mitchell Meder — Class of 1947
Helen Ey O’Connor — Class of 1947
Rita Demko Stozich — Class of 1948
Catherine “Katie” Dickson — Class of 1953
Charlene Souslin Plicicbaum Ray — Class of 1955
Joan Marie Tietjen — Class of 1961
Geraldine “Geri” Richardson Stewart — Class of 1963
Peggy Fuss Auer — Class of 1982
Carolyn Barkow — Class of 1987
Leah Woltmann Kirk — Class of 2007

We also acknowledge the loss and honor the memory of those whose lives have touched the Mount Carmel family.

Husband of Ruth Oen Tway ('52)
Daughter of Deanna Burns Soldner ('63)
Mother of “Pat” Winslow Ruck ('63)
Mother of Tamara Guckert ('75)

Mother of Theresa Cragen Draher ('78, '00 and '14) and Peggy Cragen Englehart ('82), and grandmother of Molly Draher ('12) and Brian Draher ('13)
Son of Julie Zinn ('17)
Patrick Conrad Winans, MD

Tell us what you’re up to!

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________
TELEPHONE ( ) ____________________________
E-MAIL ____________________________
GRAD YEAR ____________________________
WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU? NEW BABY? NEW JOB OR PROMOTION?
EARN ANOTHER DEGREE? ____________________________

***Are you firmly planted in the digital age? Then fill out our online form to let us know what’s new with you. Log on to the college website at www.mccn.edu and click on Alumni.
Send your email and postal address updates to the office of College Relations (contact information on page 9). Your personal information will be used for Mount Carmel College of Nursing business only.

Mount Carmel College of Nursing
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